

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4355

4356

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 414 North Howard Street

and/or common H&R Block Income Tax

2. Location

street & number 414 N. Howard Street ___ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ___ vicinity of congressional district
Baltimore

state Maryland county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Hope S. Miller c/o Harry B. Cooper

street & number 201 N. Charles Street, Suite 1501

telephone no.: MD

city, town Baltimore state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse SEB2249

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street liber 149

city, town Baltimore state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1840, three-story, three-bay brick, gable-roofed building faces east on N. Howard Street and abuts two partywall neighbors. The facade is laid in common bond and has a two-brick corbelled cornice. The street frontage is 26' and the depth is 120'.

The first story has been substantially altered and is covered in mock wooden panelling. It has a door in the second bay with small flanking display windows, all dating to the last half of the 20th century.

The second and third stories have three evenly spaced windows (now blocked) with stone sills and brick jack arches.

A recessed chimney rises from the south wall. The positioning of the chimney, along with the popularity of the 2/3 Georgian plan, suggests that the original entrance may have been in the third (north) bay.

The back (west) wall has been altered over the years with two additions. The first addition is four bays long and two stories high. The windows have soldier course lintels.

The second addition extends all the way to the alley (State Street). It is three stories high and three bays wide. The north and south walls are blank. "Schuster's Furniture Bedding 414 N. Howard St." is painted on the west wall. The first story of the west wall has a low window in the first (north) bay, a cellar chute in the second, and a cut-in door in the third. The second story has a 2/2 window in the first bay, a loading dock with a roll up grate in the second, and 2/2 window in the third. The third story imitates the second, except for a smaller door in the middle bay. There is three-brick corbelled cornice embellished with corbelled dentils formed of two headers.

The interior is finished with wallboard and acoustic tile ceiling.

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414 North Howard Street
Baltimore, MD
Section 8 Significance
8.1

-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes."² The survival of this building is rare within its neighborhood of second-generation commercial buildings consisting of three-story overtly commercial blocks.

The alterations which are visible in the back building indicate that the overall shop-house and back building configuration could be adapted to new commercial needs. The back building appears to have been used for manufacturing purposes and has loading docks worked into the first and second stories.

The first story alterations, superimposed on the first-story facade within the last twenty years, is an example of the low-budget commercial remodellings that characterize Howard Street's recent architecture and indicates the relatively "low-budget" nature of the contemporary commercial street. (See also 312-108, 330-336, and 410 North Howard Street.)

² Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24,29.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This building is a rare survivor of early nineteenth-century residential architecture on Howard Street. The architectural design of this three-story, three-bay building is a good example of a shop-house form dating to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, with twentieth-century commercial alterations. Likely, as originally constructed, the first story would have been used for commercial purposes and the upper stories would have been used as dwelling quarters. This example is similar to 320 North Howard Street, although the proportions are more generous.

The presence of dwellings or, most likely, combination shop-houses indicates the mixed residential and commercial character of this Baltimore neighborhood in the early nineteenth century. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "the rapid growth of commerce and manufacturing after independence led to a proliferation of the shop-house form in both new buildings and existing ones altered so that their commercial purpose was clearly indicated on the exterior. Shop-houses prevailed in emerging commercial centers of cities and towns alike through the early decades of the 19th century. Examples can still be seen in areas that have not experienced radical change, even though the shopfronts themselves have almost always been altered. . . the upper section retaining a domestic character."¹ Although the first story has been completely obscured by recent alterations and the upper story windows have been blocked up, the overall massing and fenestration clearly articulate the early-nineteenth-century character of the building.

The preservation of this building indicates the lessening real estate pressures on the upper stretches of North Howard Street during the nineteenth and early twentieth century, a period when much remodelling or rebuilding was undertaken. Longstreth continues, "the gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-

¹ Longstreth, Buildings of Main Street, p. 24.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

B-4356

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037 date December 17, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Street telephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimore state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:
Commercial-Residential

Known Design Source:
None

REVISIONS

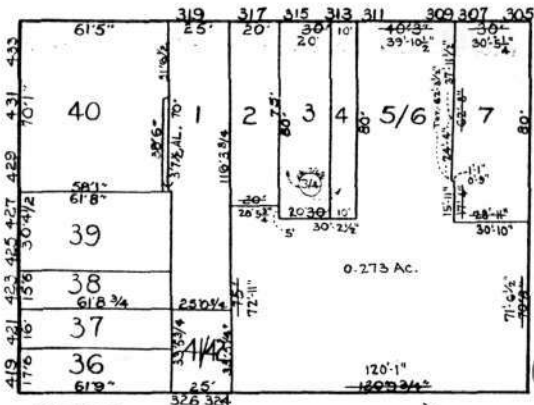
LOT 3/4 DIV PER DEED C. SH. 9830
 LOT 21/35 PER O.O.; C. SH. 77-044
 LOTS 5/6 & 7 COR. PER DEEDS; C. SH. 51-254.

530/548

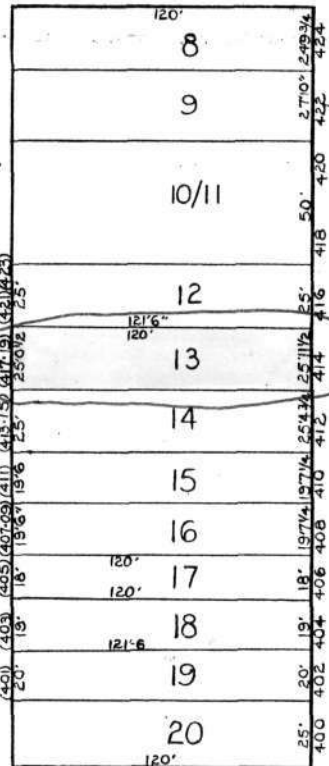
W. FRANKLIN

ST.

ST.



ST.

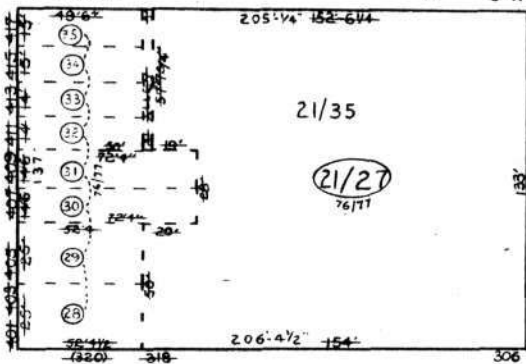


ST.

563

PIERCE

ST.



STATE

N. HOWARD

W. MULBERRY

ST.

577

NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED
 FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER
 IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER
 SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 4 SECTION 2
 BLOCK 562

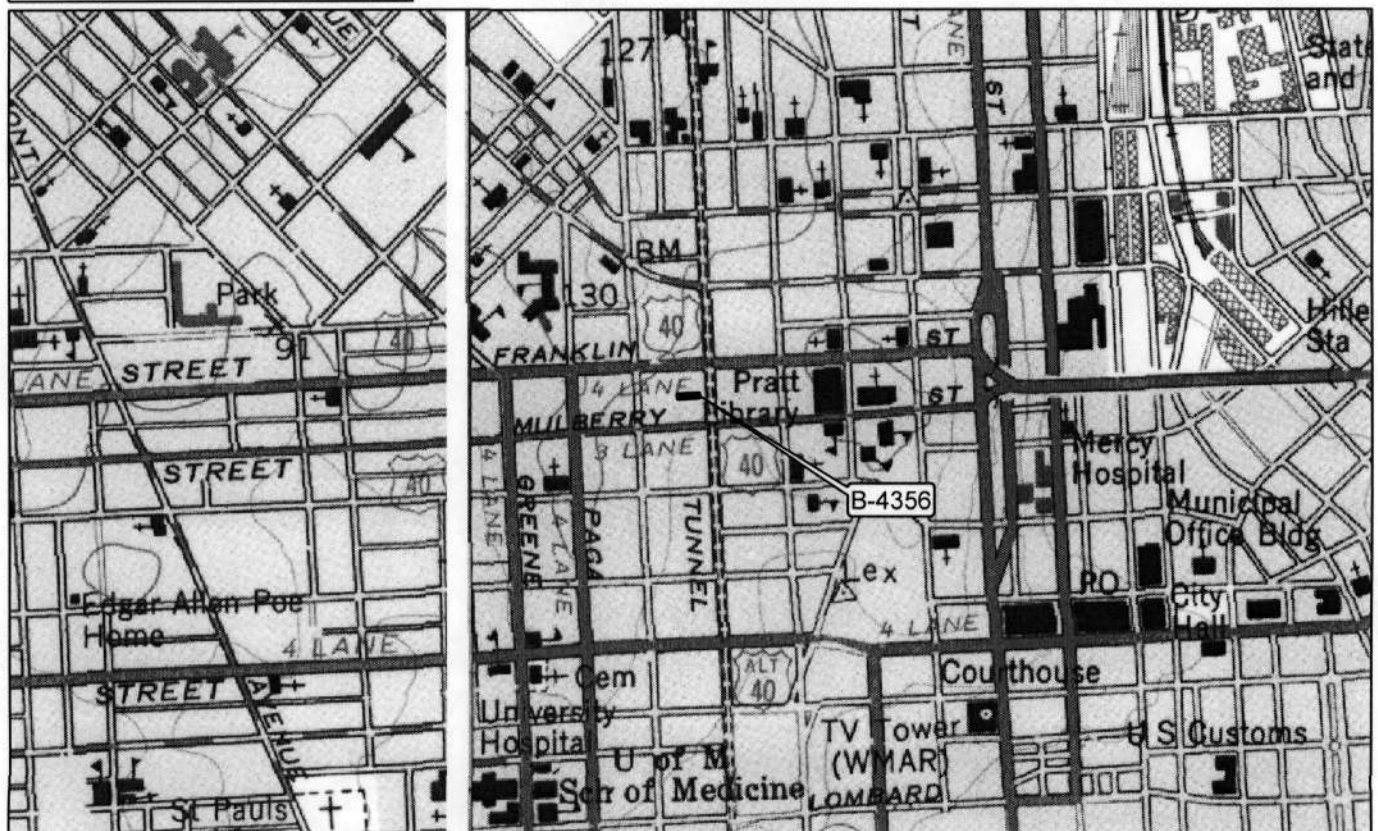
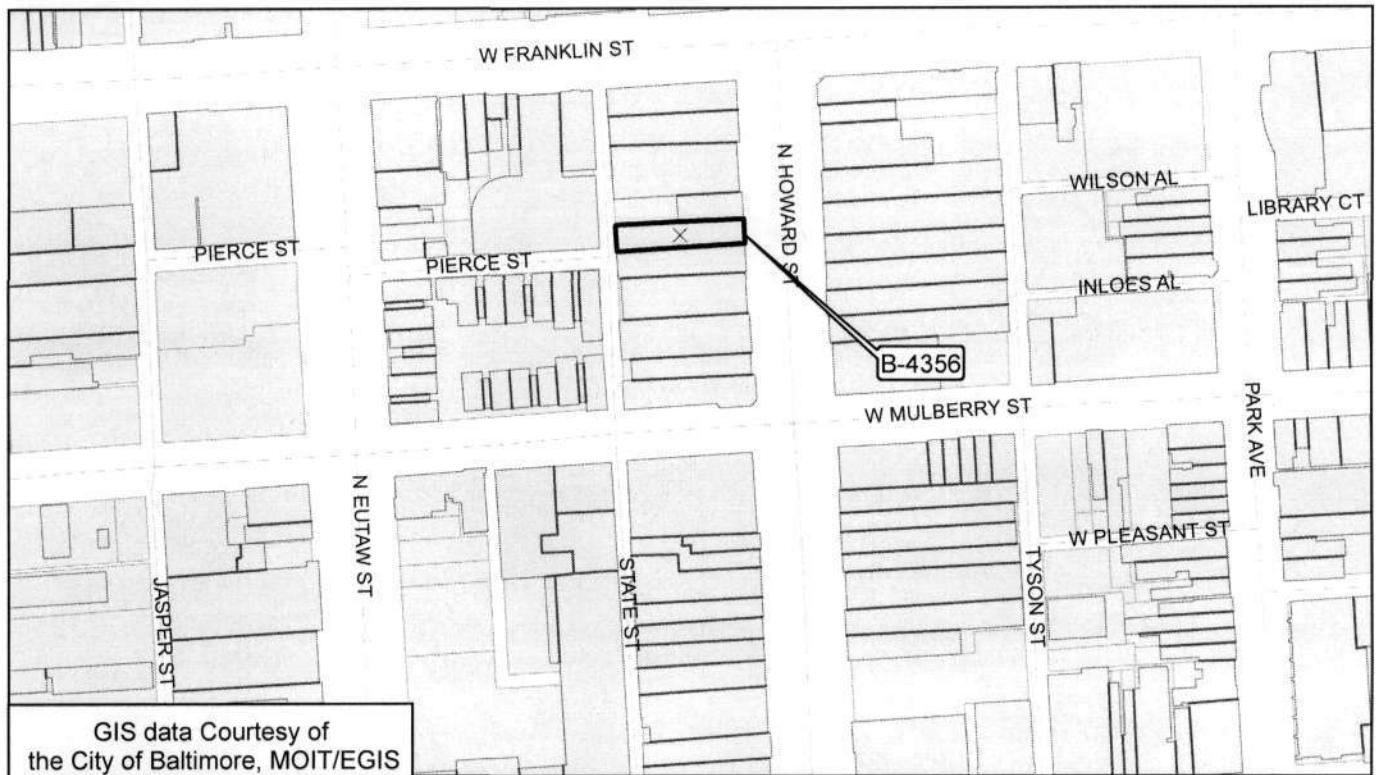
SCALE 1"=50' DATE NOV. 1966

CEDED BY P.W.

TERED BY P.W.

CKED BY

B-4356
H&R Block Income Tax
414 N. Howard Street
Block 0562, Lot 013
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-4356

414 N. Howard St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, east elevation

1/2



B-4356

414 N Howard St (near)

• Baltimore MD

Drane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Back facade (west elevation)

from alley

2/2